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SUBJECT: HORN OF AFRICA: FURTHER ON FRENCH ASSISTANCE

REF: A. PARIS 1293  
[1](#)B. STATE 69644

(SBU) Following transmission of ref A, we received additional comments on ref B demarche from MFA desk officer Thierry Caboche on July 9. He said that France shared the USG's concern for the humanitarian and food crises plaguing the Horn of Africa. He noted that France had doubled its humanitarian assistance to Somalia ("a priority for us"), amounting to 3.5 million euro (USD 5.5 million) for 2008. Concerning a possible supplementary contribution, Caboche said that a decision on a second tranche of food aid (which would take into account all other regions of the world) for 2008 would be made in the autumn of 2008. At that time, he said, the MFA's AF Bureau would be competing with the priorities of the MFA's other offices for resources, but that the AF Bureau would make the case for additional assistance for the Horn of Africa, "taking into account the very grave humanitarian situation in the region."

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